

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
additional information generating means for  
generating additional information;  
5 adding means for adding the additional information  
to image data to generate information-added data; and  
encrypting means for encrypting the  
information-added data to make it difficult to detect  
that the additional information is added.
- 10 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data to  
make it difficult to detect a position where the  
additional information is added.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
15 encrypting means adds key information for specifying an  
encryption method to the encrypted information-added  
data.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said  
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data by  
20 randomly arranging the data.
5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said  
encrypting means arranges the information-added data on  
the basis of a predetermined random pattern.
6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
25 key information is information for specifying the random  
pattern.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising transmitting means for transmitting the image data encrypted by said encrypting means to a connected image forming apparatus.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the additional information includes first information for specifying the image forming apparatus.

9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first information is notified from the image forming apparatus.

10. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes second information associated with a processing environment for the image data.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second information includes information for specifying the image processing apparatus.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the information for specifying the image processing apparatus includes a network ID of the image processing apparatus.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the network ID is acquired in accordance with a type of network to which the image processing apparatus is connected.

14. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the information for specifying the image processing apparatus include a user ID of the image processing

apparatus.

15. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the second information includes processing date information of the image data.

5 16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data is color image data made of a plurality of color components, and said adding means adds the additional information to data of a predetermined color component of the color image data.

10 17. An image processing method comprising:  
the additional information generating step of generating additional information;  
the adding step of adding the additional information to image data to generate information-added  
15 data; and  
the encrypting step of encrypting the information-added data to make it difficult to detect that the additional information is added.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein in the  
20 encrypting step, the information-added data is encrypted to make it difficult to detect a position where the additional information is added.

19. An image processing system having an image  
processing apparatus connected to an image forming  
25 apparatus,

said image processing apparatus including  
additional information generating means for

generating additional information,

adding means for adding the additional information  
to image data to generate information-added data,

encrypting means for encrypting the  
5 information-added data to make it difficult to detect  
that the additional information is added, and

transmitting means for transmitting the encrypted  
image data to said image forming apparatus, and

said image forming apparatus including  
10 receiving means for receiving the encrypted data  
transmitted from said image processing apparatus,

decrypting means for obtaining the  
information-added data by decrypting the received  
encrypted data, and

15 image forming means for forming a visible image on  
the basis of the decrypted information-added data.

20. The system according to claim 20, wherein said  
encrypting means encrypts the information-added data to  
make it difficult to detect a position where the  
20 additional information is added.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein  
said encrypting means adds key information for  
specifying an encryption method to the encrypted  
information-added data, and

25 said decrypting means decrypts the encrypted data  
on the basis of the key information added by said  
encrypting means.

22. A program which is executed on a computer to make the computer operate as an image processing apparatus, the program including:

a code for the additional information generating  
5 step of generating additional information;

a code for the adding step of adding the additional information to image data to generate information-added data; and

a code for the encrypting step of encrypting the  
10 information-added data to make it difficult to detect that the additional information is added.

23. A storage medium storing the program defined in claim 22.